

III. REMARKS

Claims 12-19 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 12 has been amended. Claims 1-11 and 19 have been canceled. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kraslavsky (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,350), hereafter "Kraslavsky" in view of Rune (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,913), hereafter "Rune." Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kraslavsky in view of Rune and further in view of Ogus (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,875), hereafter "Ogus," and further in view of Spence *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,185,600), hereafter Spence. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kraslavsky in view of Rune and further in view of Ogus. Claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kraslavsky in view of Rune and further in view of Chen *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,882),

hereafter "Chen." Claim 19 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicant gratefully appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

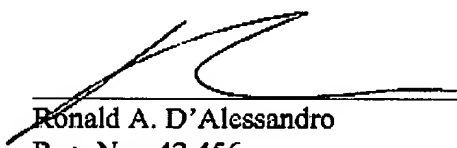
The Office has objected to claim 19 for depending upon a rejected claim. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 1-11 and 19 and have amended independent claim 12 to include the subject matter of claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the subject matter of all remaining claims is allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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